"164A (I) Any police officer making an Investigation Into any offence punishable with imprisonment for a period of ten years or more (with or without fine) including an offence which is punishable with death, shall in the course of such investigation, forward all persons whose evidence is essential for the just decision of the case, to the nearest Magistrate for recording their statement.

2. The Magistrate shall record the statements of such persons forwarded to him under sub-section (I) on oath and shall keep such statements with him awaiting further police report under section 173.

3. Copies of such statements shall be furnished to the investigating officer.

4. If the Magistrate recording the statement is not empowered to take cognizance of such offence, he shall send the Statements so recorded to the magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the case.

5. The statement of any person duly recorded as a witness under sub-section (1) may, if such witness is produce an examined, in the discretion of the court and subject to the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, be treated as evidence.

3. Since the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the Report has been referred to State Governments for their views/ comments.

4. The Malimath Committee on Criminal Justice System, which recently submitted its Report has also, recommended amendments to procedural law to make investigation and prosection more effective.

Irregularities in project on plantation of trees

2420. SHRI B.J. PANDA:: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private contractor in connivance with MCD officials has swindled the exchequer of Rs. 18 lakhs in a project on plantation of trees etc. in Delhi;

(b) whether a probe was ordered in the matter, if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the status of a similar scam on allotment of plots of land meant for slum dwellers to non-existent persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in connection with alleged bogus payment of approximately Rs. 22 lakhs made to private contractors by the officials of Horticulture Department of Civil Lines Zone of Municipal Corporation of Delhi for supply of tree guards and plantations without these having been actually supplied. One of the accused officials has since been arrested.

(c) The Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has registered another case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 regarding bogus allotment of plots of land meant for Jhuggi-Jhopri dwellers to non-existent persons. Investigation of the case has so far led to the arrest of eleven persons.

Seizure of spurious medicines in Delhi

2421. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that more than hundred Kg. of spurious medicines were seized recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the names of persons arrested in this regard; and

(c) how many spurious drugs related cases were registered during the last three years and the number of persons arrested and what is the status of those cases at present?